

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SUVA 00876 180601Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 L-03 DODE-00

DOT-00 FMC-02 CG-00 DLOS-09 OES-07 PA-02 USIA-15

PRS-01 SP-02 /071 W

-----095665 180603Z /15

P R 180355Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6307

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS SUVA 0876

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, FJ

SUBJECT: FIJI DOCKWORKERS RETURN TO WORK; ARBITRATION CONTINUES

REF: SUVA 0864 AND PREVIOUS

1. FOLLOWING A POLL TAKEN OF 400 MEMBERS OF THE FIJI WATERSIDE WORKERS AND SEAMENS UNION OVER THE WEEKEND, THE UNION HAS CALLED OFF ITS STRIKE OF FIJI'S PORT FACILITIES AFTER TWO WEEKS OF INACTIVITY. PORT OPERATIONS WILL NOW COMMENCE WHILE ARBITRATION HEARINGS ARE CONTINUED BETWEEN UNION REPRESENTATIVES AND PORTS AUTHORITY OF FIJI OFFICIALS. UNION SPOKESMAN TANIELA VEITATA SAID HE WAS RELUCTANT TO ASK HIS MEN TO RETURN TO WORK, BUT THE DECISION BY UNION MEMBERS TO CALL OFF THE STRIKE WAS A CLEAR ONE.

2. TWO MAJOR COURT HEARINGS WILL TAKE PLACE ON JULY 18 RELATED TO THE STRIKE. THE SEVENTEEN SEAMEN FROM THE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SUVA 00876 180601Z

SHIP NGAHERE WHO WERE ARRESTED LAST WEEK FOR BATTLING WITH POLICE OVER THE REMOVAL OF THEIR SHIP FROM THE LAUTOKA SUGAR WHARF WILL HAVE THEIR DAY IN COURT AND THEY WILL LIKELY BE FINED AND PERMITTED TO RETURN TO THEIR SHIP. UNION LEADER VEITATA AND THE UNION OFFICIALS CHARGED WITH INVOLVEMENT IN AN ILLEGAL STRIKE WILL ALSO APPEAR IN COURT JULY 18 TO MAKE THEIR PLEAS.

3. AN UPSURGE OF PUBLIC SENTIMENT AGAINST THE STRIKE UNDOUBTEDLY AFFECTED THE UNION MEMBERS' DECISION TO RETURN TO WORK. WOMEN'S GROUPS IN SUVA HAVE BEEN ORGANIZING A PROTEST MARCH TO TAKE PLACE JULY 19 AGAINST THE STRIKE. NEEDLESS TO SAY THE GOVERNMENT QUICKLY APPROVED THE LICENSE REQUEST FOR THE GROUP TO STAGE THE MARCH.

4. MINISTRY OF COMMERCE OFFICERS, DESPITE THE END OF THE STRIKE, ARE STILL LOOKING FOR ALTERNATE SUPPLIERS OF GOODS TO FIJI TO BREAK THE HEAVY DEPENDENCE FIJI NOW ENDURES ON AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND SUPPLIERS. THE PUBLIC INDIGNATION OVER THE TRADE BOYCOTT PLACED ON FIJI BY AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND LABOR UNIONS WHILE THE STRIKE WAS IN PROGRESS IS STILL BEING STRONGLY VOICED IN ALL QUARTERS AND THE GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO TAKE NECESSARY ACTION TO KEEP THE COUNTRY FROM BEING HELD HOSTAGE BY FOREIGN LABOR UNIONS IN THE FUTURE.

5. RESUMPTION OF WORK COULD BE SHORT LIVED. IF ARBITRATION DOES NOT YIELD RESULT SATISFACTORY TO UNION AND/OR COURTS INFLICT HARSH PENALTIES ON HIGHER CREW AND UNION LEADERS, ANOTHER WALKOUT IS DISTINCT POSSIBILITY.
FLANEGIN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARBITRATION, DOCKS, LABOR STRIKES, STRIKE SETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SUVA00876
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770254-0696
Format: TEL
From: SUVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770745/aaaabneo.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fd791d68-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 SUVA 864
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1825343
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FIJI DOCKWORKERS RETURN TO WORK; ARBITRATION CONTINUES
TAGS: ELAB, FJ
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fd791d68-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009